

EVALUATE



September 29, 2014 – February 27, 2015

EVALUATE your safety-net options using webtools and upcoming educational opportunities

After reviewing your basic information and making sure your documents are in order, FSA encourages you to evaluate whether you intend to update your yields, reallocate your base, and how those decisions will affect their upcoming decision to choose ARC/PLC options.

Base Acre Reallocation and Yield Updates

Between September 29, 2014 and February 27, 2015, owners of farms have a one-time opportunity to: (1) maintain the farm's 2013 base acres of covered commodities through 2018; or (2) reallocate base acres among those covered commodities planted on the farm at any time during the 2009 - 2012 crop years (excluding upland cotton bases). Before updating your yields and reallocating your base acres, study your options.

Study Your Base and Yield Options

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Base reallocation

[Click here for a base reallocation tool \(Version 2\) to compare a farm's current bases with its reallocated bases.](#) (.ZIP, 25 KB)

To use the tool, producers must know a farm's 2013 base acres and 2009-2012 planting history. FSA producers received this in the mail in August 2014. [For an example of the letter please see page 11 of this FSA Notice by clicking this link.](#)

Yield Update

[Click here for a Yield Update tool to compare a farm's current program yields to update yields.](#) (.ZIP, 36 KB)

Note that the file contains substitute yields for covered commodities that are based on data available from the National Agricultural Statistics Service. The file will be updated as additional data becomes available.

Program payment yields are used to determine payment amounts for Price Loss Coverage (PLC). An owner's opportunity to update yields is not contingent on Agricultural Risk Coverage (ARC) or PLC election or enrollment. Note: Upland

cotton is no longer considered a covered commodity, and the upland cotton base acres on the farm become “generic” base acres for purposes of the ARC and PLC programs discussed below. Producers may receive ARC or PLC payments on generic base acres if those acres are planted to a covered commodity.

Study Your Base and Yield Options with ARC/PLC

USDA Farm Service Agency has partnered with agricultural experts at land-grant universities to develop web tools to help you learn about these important new safety-net programs. The new resources will help you make an educated choice regarding ARC/PLC coverage for your farming operation. These tools, listed below, will allow you to input data unique to your specific farming operation, combined with factors like the geographical diversity of crops, soils, weather and climates across the country, to test a variety of financial scenarios. This information will be helpful to you before you officially choose later this year which type of coverage is best for your farming operation. ***You will formally elect (choose) your coverage between November 17, 2014 and March 31, 2015.***

Webtool¹: [National Association of Agricultural and Food Policy \(NAAFP\) led by the Food and Agricultural Policy Research Institute \(FAPRI\) at the University of Missouri, and the Agricultural and Food Policy Center \(AFPC\) at Texas A&M University](#)

Webinar on this Webtool: <https://afpc.tamu.edu/podcasts/fpm/>

Webtool²: [National Coalition for Producer Education \(NCPE\), led by the University of Illinois](#)

Webinar on this Webtool: www.farmdoc.illinois.edu.

Learn More at Upcoming Community Meetings

USDA Farm Service Agency is partnering with local Cooperative State Extension Services in communities throughout your state to conduct informational meetings for farmers like you who are interested in learning more about ARC/PLC, what it means for your farming operation, and how to prepare to choose your coverage.

Contact Your FSA County Office for an Appointment

Should you decide to update your yield or reallocate your base acres, you have between September 29, 2014 and February 27, 2015 to do so. Contact your local FSA county office for an appointment. To find your local [FSA county office click this link](#).

October 30, 2014

¹ In addition to NAAFP, FAPRI and AFPC, webtool contributors include Texas Tech University, University of Missouri, Iowa State University, University of Nebraska, Kansas State University, Mississippi State University, Oklahoma State University, Tennessee State University, University of Georgia, and Fresno State University.

² In addition to NCPE, contributors include Michigan State University, Montana State University, Watts & Associates, Delaware State University, University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, North Carolina A&T University, University of Wisconsin, Cornell University, Pennsylvania State University, Ohio State University, and University of Minnesota.